

## Call for submission on human settlements and adaptation

According to the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, human settlements can be defined as the totality of the human community – whether city, town or village – with all the social, material, organizational, spiritual and cultural elements that sustain it.<sup>1</sup> During SBSTA 44, Parties highlighted that those making submissions should “bear in mind the unique challenges and scale differences in urban, rural and remote settlements, in particular in small island developing States and least developed countries.”<sup>2</sup> During SBSTA 46, Parties further underscored their interest in collecting information related to rural and coastal settlements, particularly remote settlements.<sup>3</sup>

*We thank you in advance for filling out this template with concise, evidence-based information and for referencing all relevant sources. There are 5 sections in the template: please fill the sections that are relevant to the work of your government or organization. As you will see on the last page of the document, more detailed information on case studies, tools/methods and other knowledge resources for dissemination through the Adaptation Knowledge Portal is welcome, but optional.*

### Name of the organization or entity:

### Type of organization:

*Please choose as appropriate:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/ municipal authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional center/network/initiative                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization (IGO)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Research institution                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National/public entity                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization (NGO)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University/education/training organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector                        |  |

### Location

City: Bonn

Country: Germany

### Scale of operation:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local             | <input type="checkbox"/> Subregional   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary |

### City(ies)/Country(ies) of operation (if appropriate):

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://unhabitat.org/the-vancouver-declaration-on-human-settlements-from-the-report-of-habitat-United-Nations-conference-on-human-settlements-vancouver-canada-31-may-to-11-june-1976/>

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 15(b)(ii).

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2017/L.7, paragraph 13.

## 1. Assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change

### Description of relevant activities/processes or research:

*Please describe the activities or processes that your entity has implemented to assess sensitivity and/or vulnerability to climate change in human settlements. In case your organization carried out research on such activities/processes, please describe them.*

UNU-EHS assesses societal risk and vulnerability towards climate change related hazard at various scales, from the global to the local level, and in various sectors. A particular focus of these assessments is in urban environments, especially in developing countries and emerging economies. An overview over the individual projects can be found here: <https://ehs.unu.edu/research>

### Description of relevant tools/methods:

*Please describe the tools and/or methods that have been developed and/or used to assess sensitivity and/or vulnerability to climate change.*

The most single important tool UNU-EHS uses to assess risk and vulnerability probably is the World Risk Index, published annually within the World Risk Report. The WorldRiskIndex developed by UNU-EHS describes the disaster risk for various countries and regions. The main focus of the report is the threat from, or exposure to key natural hazards and the rise in sea level caused by climate change, as well as social vulnerability in the form of the population's susceptibility and their capacity for coping and adaptation. The WorldRiskIndex shows the level of risk for each country and provides a global overview. It is an important tool for communication and awareness raising. It underscores that risks are heavily determined by the susceptibility and the coping as well as the adaptive capacity of a society.

The 2014 edition of the report focuses specifically on cities. It can be downloaded here: <http://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:2753>

### Key outcomes of the activities undertaken:

*Please provide information regarding the outcomes of the activities/processes described above, and do not hesitate to add qualitative assessment and/or quantitative data to substantiate the information.*

Our findings suggest that countries with rapid urbanization and economic transformation face significant challenges with respect to sensitivity and the lack of capacities. Additionally, these challenges tend to be greater the lower the income of the respective country. Yet, at the same time, urbanization can be a main driver for enhancing response capacity. The analysis suggests that urbanization can, hence, have nuanced effects on overall vulnerability. We argue that climate change science needs to be more balanced in terms of acknowledging and examining the different possible pathways of vulnerability effects related to urbanization.

### Description of lessons learned and good practices identified:

Please consider the following points when describing lessons learned and good practices: (a) effectiveness/impacts of the activities/processes (including measurability of the impacts), (b) efficiency in the use of resources, (c) replicability (e.g. in different locations, at different scales), (d) sustainability (i.e. meeting the current economic, social and environmental needs without compromising the ability to address future needs).

- Our index approach can be replicated.
- It can be downscaled and is currently applied at sub-national level in various countries (e.g. Indonesia)
- It helps to manage risk and prioritize funding and action.
- It is also of great support in raising awareness.

#### Description of key challenges identified:

Please describe the key challenges associated with those activities/processes or the use of those tools/methods, that policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders interested in assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change should know about.

- Risk indices are only one information base for decision making. They need to be balanced with other factors (e.g. availability of risk reduction options, their cultural acceptability and political feasibility etc.). There are not yet too many good practices on how to combine such very different elements for decision-making in a transparent ways.

#### Planned next steps (as appropriate):

Based on this experience or research, have next steps been planned to address/study some of the identified challenges, scale up or scale out such activities/processes?

- Application of risk indices to the urban level.
- Development of risk and vulnerability scenarios, i.e. projecting different trajectories of urban vulnerability into the future and using these scenarios as a basis for decision support.

#### Relevant hyperlinks:

Please provide hyperlinks to sources of information

2. [Integrating both short-term and long-term climate considerations \(including both extreme and slow onset events\) into planning](#)

According to UNFCCC decision 1.CP/16, slow onset events include sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.<sup>4</sup>

#### Description of relevant activities/processes or research:

Please describe the activities or processes that your entity has implemented to integrate both short-term and long-term climate considerations (including both extreme and slow onset events) into

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<sup>4</sup> FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, para 25, footnote 3.

planning. In case your organization carried out research on such activities/processes, please describe them.

**Description of relevant tools/methods:**

*Please describe the tools and/or methods that have been developed and/or used to integrate both short-term and long-term climate considerations (including both extreme and slow onset events) into planning.*

**Key outcomes of the activities undertaken:**

*Please provide information regarding the outcomes of the activities/processes described above, and do not hesitate to add qualitative assessment and/or quantitative data to substantiate the information.*

**Description of lessons learned and good practices identified:**

*Please consider the following points when describing lessons learned and good practices: (a) effectiveness/impacts of the activities/processes (including measurability of the impacts), (b) efficiency in the use of resources, (c) replicability (e.g. in different locations, at different scales), (d) sustainability (i.e. meeting the current economic, social and environmental needs without compromising the ability to address future needs).*

**Description of key challenges identified:**

*Please describe the key challenges associated with those activities/processes or the use of those tools/methods, that policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders interested in integrating both short-term and long-term climate considerations into planning should know about.*

**Planned next steps (as appropriate):**

*Based on this experience or research, have next steps been planned to address/study some of the identified challenges, scale up or scale out such activities/processes?*

**Relevant hyperlinks:**

*Please provide hyperlinks to sources of information.*

**3. The role of national governments in supporting adaptation at the local level**

**Description of relevant activities/processes or research:**

*Please describe activities or processes that your entity took part in, or studied, and that illustrate the role of national government(s) in supporting adaptation at the local level.*

**Description of relevant national-level policies, programmes or projects:**

*Please describe relevant policies, programmes, projects (or other relevant initiatives) implemented by national government(s) to support adaptation action at the local level. Information on the implementing partners and financial mechanisms established would be particularly helpful.*

**Description of relevant tools/methods:**

*Please describe specific tools and/or methods that have been developed and/or used by national government(s) to support adaptation at the local level.*

**Key outcomes of the action undertaken:**

*Please provide information regarding the outcomes of the actions described above, and do not hesitate to add qualitative assessment and/or quantitative data to substantiate the information.*

**Description of lessons learned and good practices identified:**

*Please consider the following points when describing lessons learned and good practices: (a) effectiveness/impacts of the activities/processes, national-level policies, programmes or projects (including measurability of the impacts), (b) efficiency in the use of resources, (c) replicability (e.g. in different locations, at different scales), (d) sustainability (i.e. meeting the current economic, social and environmental needs without compromising the ability to address future needs).*

**Description of key challenges identified:**

*Please describe the key challenges associated with those actions, that policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders working either at the national or at the local level should know about.*

**Planned next steps (as appropriate):**

*Based on this experience or research, have next steps been planned to address/study some of the identified challenges, scale up or scale out such actions.*

**Relevant hyperlinks:**

*Please provide hyperlinks to sources of information.*

4. [Cross-cutting issues and linkages to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans \(NAPs\)<sup>5</sup>](#)

**Description of relevant activities/processes or research:**

*Please describe activities or processes that your entity took part in, or studied, and that illustrate cross-cutting issues and/or linkages to the process to formulate and implement NAPs.*

**Description of relevant national-level policies, programmes or projects:**

*Please describe relevant policies, programmes, projects (or other relevant initiatives) implemented by national government(s) that integrate local-level adaptation action into the process to formulate and*

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<sup>5</sup> For additional information on NAPs, see: <http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/Home.aspx>

*implement NAPs. Information on the implementing partners and financial mechanisms established would be particularly helpful.*

**Description of relevant national-level policies, programmes or projects:**

*Please describe specific tools and/or methods that have been developed and/or used by national government(s) to address cross-cutting issues and/or foster linkages with the process to formulate and implement NAPs.*

**Key outcomes of the action undertaken:**

*Please provide information regarding the outcomes of the actions described above, and do not hesitate to add qualitative assessment and/or quantitative data to substantiate the information.*

**Description of lessons learned and good practices identified:**

*Please consider the following points when describing lessons learned and good practices: (a) effectiveness/impacts of the activities/processes, national-level policies, programmes or projects (including measurability of the impacts), (b) efficiency in the use of resources, (c) replicability (e.g. in different locations, at different scales), (d) sustainability (i.e. meeting the current economic, social and environmental needs without compromising the ability to address future needs).*

**Description of key challenges identified:**

*Please describe the key challenges associated with those actions, that policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders working either at the national or at the local level should know about*

**Planned next steps (as appropriate):**

*Based on this experience or research, have next steps been planned to address/study some of the identified challenges, scale up or scale out such actions?*

**Relevant hyperlinks:**

*Please provide hyperlinks to sources of information.*

**5. City-to-city partnerships on climate change adaptation**

**Description of relevant activities/processes or research:**

*Please describe activities or processes that your entity took part in, or studied, and that contributed to fostering city-to-city partnerships on climate change adaptation.*

**Description of relevant tools/methods:**

*Please describe specific tools and/or methods that have been developed and/or used to foster city-to-city partnerships on climate change adaptation.*

**Key outcomes of the action undertaken:**

*Please provide information regarding the outcomes of the actions described above, and do not hesitate to add qualitative assessment and/or quantitative data to substantiate the information.*

#### **Description of lessons learned and good practices identified:**

*Please consider the following points when describing lessons learned and good practices: (a) effectiveness/impacts of the activities/processes (including measurability of the impacts), (b) efficiency in the use of resources, (c) replicability (e.g. in different locations, at different scales), (d) sustainability (i.e. meeting the current economic, social and environmental needs without compromising the ability to address future needs).*

#### **Description of key challenges identified:**

*Please describe the key challenges associated with those actions, that policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders should know about.*

#### **Planned next steps (as appropriate):**

*Based on this experience or research, have next steps been planned to address/study some of the identified challenges, scale up or scale out such actions?*

#### **Relevant hyperlinks:**

*Please provide hyperlinks to sources of information.*

#### **Further information:**

Please do not hesitate to submit more detailed information on case study(ies), tool(s)/method(s) and/or other relevant knowledge resource(s) that are relevant to adaptation in human settlements. The latter will be shared through the [Adaptation Knowledge Portal](#):

- [Case study\(ies\)](#)
- [Tool\(s\)/method\(s\)](#)
- [Other knowledge resource\(s\)](#) (online portals, policy briefs, training material, multimedia material, technical reports and scientific publications)